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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195571
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10
NSCE-00 CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP:MAR
APPROVED BY NEA:HHSAUNDERS
AF:WHARROP
EUR/WE:RPAGANELLI
----------064238 030113Z /23 S
O R 030020Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T STATE 195571

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SS, SP

SUBJECT: A SPANISH ROLE IN THE SAHARA DISPUTE

REF: MADRID 8610

1. IN FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOS ON THE SAHARA CONFLICT, EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- U.S. ADVOCATES A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THIS DISPUTE AND URGES THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED TO TRY TO NEGOTIATE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

-- U.S. IS NOT WILLING AT THIS TIME TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY IN ATTEMPTING TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
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BECAUSE U.S. FEELS OTHERS ARE BETTER QUALIFIED TO PLAY THIS ROLE AND U.S. BELIEVES IT DESIRABLE TO AVOID GREAT POWER INVOLVEMENT.

-- U.S. RECOGNIZES SPAIN'S UNIQUE POSITION IN SAHARAN AFFAIR AND WELCOMES RECENT SPANISH EFFORTS TO FACILITATE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

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-- U.S. BELIEVES THAT DESPITE FRUSTRATIONS SPAIN HAS

EXPERIENCED, MADRID REMAINS AN ACCEPTABLE INTERMEDIARY IN EYES OF PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

-- ALTHOUGH NOT PREPARED TO ASSUME A LEADING ROLE IN PROMOTING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, U.S. WOULD PROVIDE DISCREET ENCOURAGEMENT TO DIPLOMATIC RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT, IF GOS IS ABLE TO GET THIS PROCESS UNDERWAY AND WOULD LIKE U.S. SUPPORT.

2. AS MOROCCAN ATTITUDES TOWARD POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SAHARAN ENTITY IN THE MAURITANIAN-OCCUPIED SAHARA APPEAR CENTRAL TO SEVERAL COMPROMISE FORMULAS BEING DISCUSSED, DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION SPANISH MAY HAVE ON CURRENT MOROCCAN POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT. VANCE

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